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Agenda item 20 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

China, Mexico and Nigeria: draft resolution

International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, which contains in its annex the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, and its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 54/219 and 54/233 of 22 December 1999, and recalling agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council[1] and Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,[2]

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance and in the facilitation of the work of the humanitarian organizations within its territory,

Also emphasizing the importance of international cooperation for dealing with natural disasters in all its phases;

Stressing the need to optimize and disseminate the listings of organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and scientific organizations as well as the need to develop a directory of the specialized national,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 5.
[2] A/55/82-E/2000/61.

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regional and international institutions and agencies working in the field of international response to natural disasters, together with an inventory of national capacities, in order to lay the foundations for an efficient and effective use of resources available and collaborative efforts,

1. *Expresses deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

2. *Stresses* that humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to resolution 46/182 and should be determined on the basis of the human dimension and needs arising out of the particular natural disasters;

3. *Also stresses* in this context the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the provision of humanitarian assistance for all phases from relief to development, including through the provision of adequate resources;

4. *Emphasizes* that economic growth and sustainable development are essential for prevention of and preparedness against natural disasters;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the participation, at the national level, of the private sector in supporting the efforts of Governments of disaster-prone countries towards prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, reconstruction and development activities, and encourages more members of the private sector to take part in such initiatives;

6. *Welcomes* the expansion of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams to include experts from all areas of the world;

7. *Encourages* enhanced cooperation among Governments, in particular through the United Nations and regional organizations, in order to strengthen early warning and preparedness mechanisms for natural disasters;

8. *Also encourages* Governments, in particular through their disaster response agencies, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to maximize the effectiveness of the international response to natural disasters, based, inter alia, on humanitarian need, from relief to development;

9. *Also encourages* further cooperation between the United Nations system and regional organizations in order to increase the capacity of regional organizations to respond to natural disasters;

10. *Invites* Member States to consider developing a framework for international humanitarian assistance in the wake of natural disasters, outlining the responsibilities of countries receiving and providing support;

11. *Encourages* States that have not signed the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, Finland, on 18 June 1998, to consider doing so;

12. *Stresses* the need for partnership among Governments of the affected countries, relevant humanitarian organizations and specialized companies to

promote the transfer and use of technologies to strengthen the preparedness and response to natural disasters, and calls for the transfer of required technologies to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms;

13. *Encourages* the complementarity of telecommunications and other technological equipment required in humanitarian and disaster relief operations;

14. *Also encourages* in such operations the sharing of geographical data, including remote-sensing images, geographic information systems and global positioning systems data, among Governments, space agencies and relevant international humanitarian organizations, as appropriate;

15. *Stresses* the need to ensure close links between disaster prevention activities, as set out in resolution 54/219, and the improvement of natural disaster preparedness and response;

16. *Encourages* Governments in natural disaster-prone countries to establish, with the support of the donor community, national spatial information infrastructure relating to natural disaster preparedness, response and mitigation, including the necessary training of personnel;

17. *Also encourages* innovative efforts which link various phases of international assistance from relief to development, such as the joint Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization and Pan-American Health Organization Disaster Response and Recovery Mission, undertaken in all countries affected by hurricane Mitch, and reiterates the need to ensure adequate assessment of and follow-up to these approaches with a view to further developing and applying them, as appropriate, in other natural disasters;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare recommendations on how to improve the United Nations potential to mitigate natural disasters, including through the development of an inventory of existing capacities at the national, regional and international levels;

19. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General, contained in resolutions 54/95 of 8 December 1999 and 54/233, to submit to the General Assembly concrete proposals in order to enhance the functioning and utilization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, and in this regard, again requests the Secretary-General to consider more active use of the Fund for timely and adequate natural disaster response;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider innovative mechanisms to improve the international response to natural disasters, inter alia, through addressing any geographical and sectoral imbalances in such a response where they exist, as well as more effective use of national emergency response agencies, taking into account their comparative advantages and specializations, as well as existing arrangements, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".